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testimony to the large amount of truth contained in our Celtic legends, too long despised, and still too little studied."

The following papers were submitted to the Meeting.

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NOTES ON SCULPTURES AND AN INSCRIPTION CARVED  
ON A CHIMNEY-PIECE PRESERVED IN THE BUILDING  
ATTACHED TO DUNKERRON CASTLE.

BY GEORGE V. DU NOYER, ESQ., M.R.I.A.

IN reading those valuable and interesting papers published in the Number of the "Journal" for July, 1857 (vol. i., new series, pp. 364, 370), entitled, "Notes on the Irish Dresses, Armour, &c., of the Sixteenth Century," by Daniel Mac Carthy, Esq.; and "The Book of Mac Carty Reagh," by John Windele, Esq.; I was reminded that I had sketches bearing on the former subject, taken from a carved chimney-piece preserved in a building attached to the old castle of Dunkerron, near Kenmare, in the county of Cork. It occurred to me that the gentlemen to whom I have alluded will feel an interest in the sketches, and that they might not be unacceptable to the Society in general.

The descriptive notes which I append may serve to illustrate the plates which accompany this paper.

PLATE I., Fig. 1.—In dexter and sinister chief points, and in dexter and sinister base points, a star-fish. In middle chief a che-rub, with oriole surrounding the head. In honour point a hand and arm coupé close below the elbow, and crossing the shield per bend. In fess point a wild boar. In nombril point a water-newt or lizard. In middle base a Romanesque galley, with human figure on board, of which the bust and head only are visible. Supporters: on the dexter side a nondescript-winged animal, with the head and neck of an eagle, but horned like a bull; legs clawed like those of a bird, and spurred from the heel and elbow joints; body and tail of a lion. On sinister side an animal resembling a maned lion, with an unusually long tail; the head prolonged into a lengthened snout, and a deep, grinning mouth, armed with a double row of formidable teeth, and having a long, sharply-barbed tongue projecting. Under both supporters a fleur-de-lis, and below the shield, on the dexter base, a graceful sprig of shamrock. On the stone over the armorial bearings, just described, are carved the letters, O S M. S: these I take to be the beginning of the names O'Sullivan More, and his wife, Sily Mac Carthy; but the rest of Mac

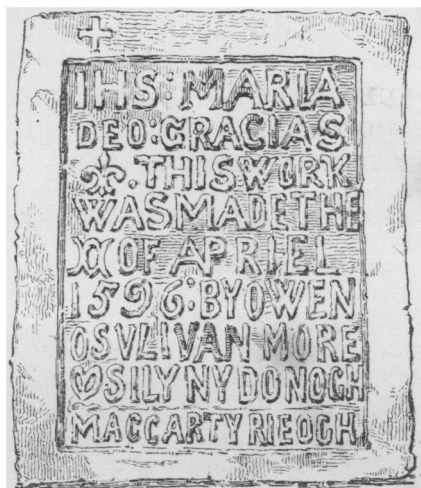


Fig. 2.

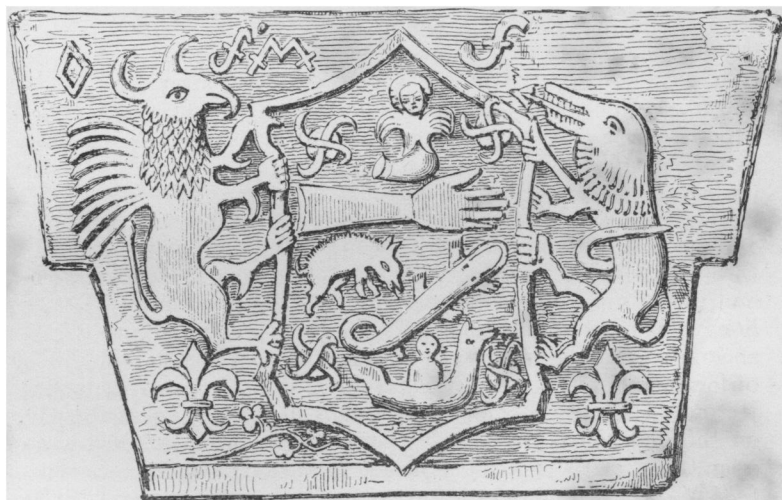


Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.



Fig. 1.

Carthy's name has been omitted. Can this be a joint coat of arms, a blending of the bearings of the two great families<sup>1</sup>?

PLATE II., Fig. 2.—On the left-hand side of the chimney-piece we have a spirited representation of an Irish gentleman performing on a hunting-horn, and probably calling his hounds around him, preparatory to the chase; his favourite dog, covered with curling hair, and in that respect resembling the Irish liver-coloured water spaniel, is seen trotting up to him. His dress is a close-fitting tunic, belted round the waist, and extending to a short way above the knees; his legs appear bare; his cap very closely resembles a Glengarry bonnet, with a twisted band surrounding the lower part over the forehead; what appears to be a small feather hangs gracefully drooping from the back part of the cap. The hunting-horn is held in the right hand, and appears to be a simple cow's horn, without the least decoration; the left hand of the figure grasps a long double corkscrew scroll, which divides the field of the stone into two compartments, the lower one of which is filled with the chestnut flower ornament so common in carvings of the sixteenth century, and in the upper is the dog before described; below, and to the rear of the dog, are two animals which more nearly resemble water-newts than lizards; they have their tails looped together, in front of the human figure. Above and below the scroll-work are three Tudor roses, two only of which are complete in their carving.

PLATE II., Fig. 1.—On the right-hand end of the chimney-piece, and on the stone corresponding to the one last described, is a figure of a female—a lady, her right arm extended, and the hand grasping the stem, as it were, of a double corkscrew ornament which extends along the top of the stone and down its centre. This lady is dressed in a long, close-fitting gown, the feet not visible; a kind of narrow collar round the neck, and a loose belt round the waist, buckled by a circular fibula in front, but much lower than the waist itself; her head-dress is something “stunning.” First, a whimple and a plain fillet across the forehead; over that a cap of straight plaits: a circular ornament decorates the right side of the cap, while on the left is a rosette, with drooping ends hanging over the ear. The orna-

<sup>1</sup> “It would be fair to presume that Sir Owen and his wife, Shilie, would quarter their respective arms in the shield over the Dunkerron mantle-piece. What were the O'Sullivan arms *in extenso* I do not know. The galley and the lizard, I believe, were part of them; but I cannot see anything in the Dunkerron shield which has to do with Shilie's paternal coat. The Mac Carthys (every branch of them alike) bore the red deer of Kerry alone in the shield, and the arm and hand grasping a lizard or newt, (but not a legless water-newt) for crest.

Mr. Petrie's famous seal—the seal of Donall Ruad (of the Muskerry branch)—was, indeed, very different; but this, too, has nothing in common with the Dunkerron shield. I hope I may be pardoned for these suggestions. It is a long time since anything literary has interested me more than the drawings and description of Mr. Du Noyer; and it is with great reluctance that I pack them up and send them back to you. Your notes at foot of page 370 and 375 are working well; and I thank you again for them.”—*Note communicated by D. Mac Carthy, Esq.*

ment in the field of the stone is very similar to that described on the other side of the chimney-piece, the upper compartment commencing with a large Tudor rose of seven petals, followed by a zig-zag-raised line having ivy-leaves sculptured in high relief in each of the triangular compartments.

I strongly incline to the belief that in the two figures we have the O'Sullivan More and his lady, the daughter of Mac Carthy Reagh<sup>1</sup>; and, if so, the example of costume thus afforded to us is of great interest. Certainly, the lady had not donned the female dress of the court of Queen Elizabeth, and evidently had not been honoured with one of those costly robes bestowed by Elizabeth on those "well-bred ladies," the Countess of Desmond and the wife of Turlogh Lynogh, so admirably written upon by your learned correspondent, Mr. Daniel Mac Carthy. The dress, too, of the male figure is plain enough to be "mere Irish," and the cap has an undoubted Celtic look about it. At all events, if we dare not *identify* the figures from the Dunkerron chimney-piece, we must regard them as affording evidence of the male and female costume of the gentry in the county of Kerry in the year 1596.

PLATE I., Fig. 2.—This inscription, which is carved in raised Roman capitals, occurs on a separate stone, and does not appear to have originally formed any part of the chimney-piece; on the contrary, it is highly probable that it was placed in the wall over the principal entrance to the castle. The mantle-piece exhibits an example of what is termed by architects the joggled arch.

## DUNKERRON CASTLE.

BY JOHN WINDELE, ESQ.

NEAR the head of the estuary or bay of Kenmare (Hibernice, *Ceann Mara*), in the county of Kerry, stand all that remains of this once important fortalice.

The few ancient notices which we possess, supposed to refer to this great inlet, are subjects of doubt and conjecture. By some it is believed to have been the *Inbher Sgeine* of our native writers, and either the Iernus or Iuvernina, or the *Dur* of the geographer Ptolemy. But Camden supposes that the *Dur* was the rivulet flowing into the

<sup>1</sup> The grandson of Finin an Duna Mac Carthy Reagh (for whom O'Callagh transcribed the "Book of Lismore,") was Donell Mac Carthy, the 3d *Reagh*. This Donell was married twice; once, and firstly, to a daughter of Teg Mac Cormack, Lord of Muskerry; and, secondly, to Ellinor, daughter to

Gerald, Earl of Kildare. Donell was the father of Sir Donogh M'Carthy Reagh, Lord of Carbery. Sir Donogh was the father of the celebrated Florence Mac Carthy, and also of *Shilie*, who was married to Sir Owen O'Sullivan, both supposed to be represented by the *graceful* couple who support the shield.